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conditions? Herbert Spencer made the distinction between militant society and industrial society the chief cornerstone of a political philosophy; but how many Americans, pious disciples of Spencer or others, ever before the present war had much of a grip on the significance of the leading fact that "in their readiness to meet an armed enemy nations may be divided into two groups—those whose governments, industrial systems, and habits and customs have been arranged into a unified and coherent whole directed largely to military ends, and those which without thought for military strength have allowed these things to develop to meet the needs of a people at peace"? Everybody knows that wars, like showers, come to an end at last. Who among us thinks that he can see very far into the conditions that will exist, and that will call for control, after the end of the present war, whether in our domestic or in our international relations? This book is a sort of Baedeker to the outwardly peaceful regions behind war frontiers, to the field of economic operations while war is in progress, and to the fatherland after the stay-at-homes and the fighters have been thrown out of their previous bearings by the fighting. It goes without saying that such a book can be neither a cyclopedia as to facts, on the one hand, nor a Code Napoleon for control of all the dislocated relations, on the other. One may say with confidence, however, that a more timely book could hardly be imagined. It is a book which every man or woman who votes ought to digest. It is a book which every man or woman who actually contributes to public opinion ought to study hard. It is a book worthy to be one of the chief landmarks from which every legislator, state or national, in the land takes his bearings. Its editors would be the last to claim for it the character of a last word upon its subjects. It is virtually a first word on contemporary aspects of the subjects. It deserves wide and long influence, and it is worthy to be the progenitor of a vigorous breed of wrestlers with problems of war economics.

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A Social History of the American Family from Colonial Times to the Present. By ARTHUR W. CALHOUN, PH.D. Vol. II, from Independence through the Civil War. Cleveland, Ohio: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1918. Pp. 390.

The second part of Dr. Calhoun's important work more than sustains the high expectation of the reviewer of the first volume. There is the same clear and forceful style, the same logical analysis and careful

attention to details, while the century of rapid national expansion covered by this division has offered a field for exploitation much less previously worked than was the colonial period. The author has taken full advantage of his opportunity. The fourteen chapters of this volume are packed with information gathered from many hitherto unused sources. In particular, fruitful use has been made of the writings of both foreign and American observers of family life in the new nation. Especially interesting and enlightening are the pictures of frontier conditions in the West and South. In fact the title, *A Social History of the American Family*, is fully justified, for it is precisely the author's clear perception of the real breadth of his subject—of the fact that the great stream of the larger social life, whether political, economic, or religious, inevitably flows through and shapes the character of the domestic life—which constitutes the chief merit of his book. Stress is laid on the economic factors. In his Introduction Dr. Calhoun says:

The evolution of the American family during the period that accomplished the nationalization of the federal union, manifests the operation of several large groups of formative factors that were present at least in rudimentary form in the colonial period. The chief of these was the influence of pioneering and the frontier, the development of urban industrialism, the rise of city luxury marked by conspicuous consumption, and the culmination of the chattel slave system. All of these agencies, it will be observed, are economic and their outstanding importance supports the large lines of the economic interpretation. The first was a phenomenon of the westward-moving forefront of settlement—the most distinctively American factor in our history. The long persistence of a genuine frontier continually brought a considerable part of the population under the direct influence of pioneer life and has profoundly affected conditions even in the older sections of the country.

The strong influence of frontier economic conditions is revealed in the opening chapter on "Marriage and Fecundity in the New Nation." Here is rich material for the sociologist. As in the colonial period, so likewise in the new settlement of the West and Southwest, early marriages and big families were the rule. Children were looked upon as an economic asset. Child labor was favored by public opinion as a proper means of production. A gentleman of Petersburg sent his son to Edinburgh "to make a doctor of him, since he now doubted whether he would ever marry and take a plantation, his age being already twenty-one years." According to Hunt (*Life in America*) the girls of North Carolina married so early that grandmothers of twenty-seven years were frequently found. The high death-rate was far outstripped by the birth-rate.

Tennessee enacted a law in 1829 authorizing any man whose wife had three or more children at one birth to take two hundred acres of state lands for each of the children. Buckingham noted in 1842 that in the log huts of the Georgia mountains the number of their children appeared to be excessive, ten or twelve in each hut at least. One woman not over thirty-five had thirteen children. . . . A North Carolina man born during the period under study in this volume had twenty-seven brothers and sisters.

Of course the price of such excessive child-breeding was paid by the woman in wrecked body and spirit. "Bunn, a mid-century author, thought that women should not marry at so tender an age, nor have half-a-dozen children before they ought to have one." The harmful social effects of premature wedlock are often accented by writers such as Mackenzie, Martineau, and Cooper.

"The Unsettling of Old Foundations" of matrimonial forms and ideals is treated in a fascinating way in the second chapter. Pioneer economic conditions tended to level class distinctions in mating. Mercenary marriages were relatively few. It is not rare, reports Mazzei, "for a girl to refuse a man whose face and fortune are his only recommendations." Sidons remarks that "parents seek less to secure a rich match than a steady man for their child." It is quite common, says another observer, for parents to "give their daughters only their parental blessing for dowry, and to make them wait until after death for the inheritance." There was, however, a "tendency in the direction of sordid unions among the class that rose with commercialization and the waning of wilderness influences as well as among the beneficiaries of the slave system." Freedom in marriage and divorce was the rule. The ceremony was simple, often before a justice of the peace. The statutes permitted great liberty of divorce; and this is notably true of the newer states of the South and Southwest where legislative divorce occurred on a wide scale.

The nineteenth century, observes Dr. Calhoun, "witnessed a remarkable revolution in the status of the child in America. As the vastness of the unfolding continent and its needs impressed themselves more and more on the minds of men, the valuation placed on childhood rose." Conditions favored the early "Emancipation of Childhood," the subject of the third chapter, which is based on a wealth of contemporary materials. The precocity of boys and girls challenged the notice of all foreign observers of American society, and the new freedom "evoked an astonishing competence on the part of childhood." Likewise it bore evil fruit, although the general trend was sound. Writers comment on

the pertness, the profligacy, and the disrespect for age on the part of the American youth. The boys were more spoiled than the girls. In 1834 the daily *Man*, a labor newspaper, contained "a modern catechism adapted to the times," in which occur the following questions:

Who is the oldest man? The lad of fourteen, who struts and swaggers and smokes his cigar, and drinks rum; treads on the toes of his grandfather, swears at his mother and sisters, and vows that he will run away and leave "the old man" if he will not let him have more cash. In what families is there the best government? Those in which the children govern the parents. Who brings up the children in the way they should go? He that teaches them to spend money without earning it; mixes sling whenever he thinks it will do him good, and always saves the bottom of the glass for little Frank.

The satirist was not the only one who noted the traits of precocious American youth. There is abundant testimony from other sources. Even Emerson "quoted a man who said that it was a misfortune to have been born in an age when children were nothing and to have spent mature life in an age when children were everything." The emancipation of children, especially of girls, had good results as well as bad. Says the author:

From sundry references in the period between 1800 and the War, the inference is that the American maidens enjoyed great freedom, cherished their independence, and used it cleverly. Unhampered acquaintance with young men put them in a position to choose their mate, perhaps not always wisely yet doubtless with results happier on the whole than the fruits of marriage in more conventional periods.

In fact the early emancipation of the child, with its good and evil results, appears clearly as a transition phase in the process of spiritual liberation which is changing for the better the relative positions of mother, father, and child in the household.

At the present moment, when the threefold movement for the intellectual, economic, and political liberation of woman is reaching its crisis, the two chapters on the "Social Subordination of Woman" and the "Emergence of Woman" will be read with keen interest. They offer new and valuable materials drawn in part from a variety of hitherto unused sources and presented in Dr. Calhoun's best style. Here there is not space even for a brief summary; nor may any attempt be made to analyze the enlightening chapters on the "Family and the Home," "Sex Morals in the Opening Continent," the "Struggle for the West," the "New Industrial Order," and the "Reign of Self-Indulgence."

The reader's interest culminates in the chapters dealing with southern family life. A vivid picture is drawn of "Negro Sex and Family Relations in the Ante-Bellum South." As usual, the author lets the contemporary records speak for themselves. If the behavior of the Negro was often bestial, the fact gives no support at all to the obsession of the southern mind that the black man is made of inferior clay and is devoid of a moral nature. "The Negro sex relations were extra-moral phenomena—the behavior of irresponsible cattle. If the blacks were gross and bestial, so would our race be under bondage; so it is now when driven by capitalism to the lower levels of misery. The allegedly superior morality of the master race or class is not an inherent trait but merely a function of economic ease and ethical tradition."

How could the Negro help being gross when his licentiousness ministered to the master's passions and greed? Negresses were prized for their fecundity; and often the black man who "had a fine family" was forced by his owner to "serve as a stallion." Promiscuous "chattel-dom spread disease among the races." The marriage relation was precarious. "The full property right of the master involved, of course, the right to break up families and sell the members apart," and the right was very often ruthlessly exercised. In some regions, even in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, public sentiment began to oppose the separation of the slaves' family; but "progress was shamefully slow."

If the slave system brutalized the black chattel, it tended also to degrade the white owner. Abundant proof of this fact is presented by Dr. Calhoun in his chapter on "Racial Association in the Old South." "American slavery almost universally debauched slave women." The corruption of white boys is the theme of many writers. An ex-mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, "once said that as a general rule every young man in his state became addicted to fornication at an early age." A Tennessee slaveholder ventured "to say, that in the slaveholding settlements of middle and southern Mississippi, where I have lived for several years, there is not a virtuous young male of twenty years of age." Early in the nineteenth century "the North Carolina supreme court decided that a white man could not be convicted of fornication and adultery with a slave-woman because she had no standing in court." One can heartily approve the author's judgment when he declares that it is difficult to "appraise a civilization in which such an institution was accepted, in which countless 'respectable' men lived thus in standardized illicit love to which society was too supercilious to accord legal recognition, and in

which all the virtues of womanhood were not sufficient to procure a career of respectability."

Southern "sentiment could wink at miscegenation but would not legalize it." The black woman was at the mercy of the white rapist; and even today, according to creditable southern white witnesses, for every case of the rape of a white woman by a black man there are many cases of the rape of black women by white men. In short, the degradation of the Negro's family life through slavery debased the domestic life of the white.

The volume closes with a chapter on the "White Family in the Old South" and another in which the "Effects of the Civil War" on household institutions are considered. These may not here be summarized. Dr. Calhoun is producing a monumental work. The *Social History of the American Family* will take its place, I venture to say, as one of the chief contributions which several decades of active sociological research have yielded.

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A League of Nations. By HENRY NOEL BRAILSFORD. Revised edition. London: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. vii+349. \$1.55.

This is a book that no one can afford to miss who cares to understand the tremendous issue of our time. The author has had unusual opportunities for knowing the facts of the European situation and has used his opportunities with great diligence and understanding, and, above all, in a judicial spirit. Many will disagree with the book at certain points for the simple reason that the judicial spirit has been driven out by the spirit of warlike hostility. In fact anything like a judicial attitude toward the contending parties in this war to many now seems a vice rather than a virtue. But whatever the effect of unmitigated hostility and blind partisanship upon fighting men, it is clear that at the end of the war there will be need for counselors who are capable of judicial discrimination.

Mr. Brailsford is far too judicial to extenuate the evils that have been perpetrated in this war by the Germans—evils of the very sort which a league of nations aims to prevent. Germany, he says "can be acquitted of crime only if it is convicted of madness," "in denouncing Prussian militarism no words are too harsh," the work of the school of